

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre
on Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor June Reid (in the Chair)
Councillor John Newton–Davies

District Councillor Frances Leonard

Mark Carter, Tony Farnfield, David Kealey, Bernard
Lusby, Mary Ternouth

Mr. Julian Thornton, Hertfordshire County Council

Apologies:

Councillor Jenny Roberts
Pat Forward

Officers:

Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Mark Carter declared an interest as he is working as a self-employed contractor for Sandridge Parish Council

734 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2019, having previously been circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29th January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

735 MATTERS OF REPORT

- Maintenance was carried out around the perimeter of the Harness Way pond in February. This volunteer exercise was well attended and made significant progress in opening out the dense foliage surrounding this valuable wildlife habitat.
- Six trees were planted in March by volunteers in the North West corner of William Bell Open Space. In addition to the three Flowering Cherries and three Crab apples, mixed hedging shrubs were planted along the immediate 25 metre perimeter, providing a future habitat for wildlife. Due to current dry conditions Mark Carter will water the trees imminently.
- The Modification Order application to create a Definitive Right of Way on the footpath between House Lane and the Woodland Park was submitted by hand to an officer at County Hall on January 31st.

736 FOOTPATHS/RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

- Julian Thornton reported that one of the few remaining stiles in the Parish on Footpath 49 (Coopers Green Lane/House Lane) has been replaced with a kissing gate.
- Julian Thornton informed the Committee that Sandringham School has now submitted a formal application to stop up Footpath 29A.

737 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP P3 GRANTS

- Julian Thornton informed the Committee that P3 grant funding continues to be available although applications are now considered out of general revenues rather than from a definitive budget. He invited members to consider any future projects

which may be suitable for funding.

- Mary Ternouth raised the matter of status and potential funding for a shared cycling and walking route from the new Oaklands/Taylor Wimpey housing development, running parallel with Sandpit Lane. This was discussed by the Committee.

738 HARNESS WAY COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GARDEN

The Projects and Amenities Officer asked the Committee to agree ideas for first stages of a community garden in Harness Way Open Space within a designated area marked up on a map.

The Committee agreed that development of a natural, fairly low maintenance, habitat was preferable. Key ideas and decisions included:

- Digging a smaller, secondary pond to support the larger pond already a feature of Harness Way
- Planting a wildlife hedge adjacent to the fencing at the back of householders' gardens
- Possible planting of several trees
- Planting of wild flowers (plug not seeds)
- Native species of planting with seasonal elements where possible, mindful of dry conditions
- No future grass cutting in the area
- Planting to commence in the autumn

In preparation for a possible pond digging volunteer activity in July, Mark Carter agreed to dig a trial hole to test suitability for proceeding with a larger pond and inform the Committee accordingly.

Tony Farnfield requested that householders backing on to this area of the Harness Way Open Space were informed in advance of any work backing on to their fencing.

739 VOLUNTEER TASKFORCE SCHEDULE

Due to the Bank Holiday weekend and seasonal deferral of the Harness Way project the Committee agreed to cancel the May 5th scheduled volunteer activity.

The Projects and Amenities officer asked the Committee to consider future volunteer tasks. Suggestions included the following:

- Spencer Meadow maintenance (alternative June activity if Harness Way pond digging does not proceed)
- William Bell Open Space maintenance
- Skyswood Open space bramble clearance
- Riflebutts Pond clearance (Projects and Amenities Officer to establish ownership)
- Maintenance of ancient woodland adjacent to House Lane (Sandpit Lane)

Members agreed to submit any further ideas to the parish office for inclusion in the volunteer schedule.

740 FINANCE

The PEAP Committee noted expenditure for the year 2018 – 2019 and the future budget for 2019 – 2020.

741 MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Julian Thornton informed the Committee of County Council plans to develop a Jersey Lane management plan and will update at the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 16th July 2019 at 7.30pm

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47pm

Chair

Date